Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115913 ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 SNM-05 DEAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 JUSE-00 CTME-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA:ADBOWEN:YT
APPROVED BY ARA/CCA:WSSMITH
L - MHOINKES
COAST GUARD-KCROMWELL
ARA/CAR - DAVE PIERCE

-----034597 061012Z /21

R 060110Z MAY 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USINT HAVANA INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, BF, CU

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AT SEA

REF: (A) HAVANA 1057, (B) STATE 103724

1. COAST GUARD ACTION IN FERRYING BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS TO CUBAN FREIGHTER CAMAGUEY WHICH HAD ENTERED BNHAMIAN WATERS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION WAS TAKEN AFTER FULL CONSULTATION AND CLEARANCE WITH DEPARTMENT AND PURSUANT TO AGREEMENT WITH COB TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC AND LIMITED ASSISTANCE TO GOB IN ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION. THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WAS LIMITED TO TRANSPORTATION AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COAST GUARD DID NOT BOARD THE VESSEL.

2. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE CAMAGY WITHOUT FLYING FLAG HAD BEEN SPOTTED BY US AIRCRAFT WITH BALES ON DECK WHICH APPEARED TO BE MARIJUANA. THE ASSUMPTION WAS THAT THE VESSEL MIGHT BE OFF-LOADING MARIJUANA ONTO SMALLER CRAFT. BAHAMIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED FOR COAST GUARD ASSISTANCE

IN FERRYING BAHAMIAN OFFICERS TO INVESTIGATE. AS IT TURNED OUT, CAMAGUEY THROUGH NAVIGATIONAL ERROR HAD RUN AGROUND A MILE FROM OUTER BAHAMIAN ISLAND W;ILE CARRYING LIVESTOCK AND HAY TO MOZAMBIQUE.

3. BBCAUSE OF NARCOTIC SMUGGLING PROBLEM THROUGH THE BAHAMAS AND THE LIMITED CAPABILITIES OF THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT, WE FIND IT USEFUL TO COOPERATE WITH BAHAMIANS WHEN ASKED. WE ALSO RENDER USEFUL SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN CASES SUCH AS THIS WHEN SHIPS RUN AGROUND. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, LAW OF THE SEA, COAST GUARDS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 06 may 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition Event.
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE115913
Document Source: CDR

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: ADBOWEN:YT Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D780193-0943

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780586/aaaacveg.tel

Line Count: 73 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 435a3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 HAVANA 1057, 78 STATE 103724

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2770148 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ASSISTANCE FOR BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AT SEA

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, BF, CU, US

To: HAVANA Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/435a3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014